(d) Open Market Sales Scheme for domestic use for Wheat and Rice is already in vogue since October, 93 and January, 1994 respectively.

Exploitation of Women Agricultural Workers in Maharashtra

978. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that because of acute under employment and low collective bargaining power, the women agricultural workers in Maharashtra are not only being paid less wages but are also being exploited to the extent possible;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the remedial measures Government propose to take to ensure equal wages, jobs security and end of exploitations of women agricultural workers in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of Sabha.

Exploration of Reserves of Diamonds in Andhra Pradesh

979. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:
DR. MOHAN BABU:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether modern international technology would be introduced in exploiting large scale reserves of diamonds located in Mahboobnagar, Cuddapah and Ananthpur Districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the Government would co-ordinate with Andhra Pradesh Mineral Development Corporation in examining the bids before awarding the contract?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV): (a) to (c) The National Mineral Policy, 1993 envisages, *inter-alia*, induction of modern technology for high value and scarce minerals, through private participation. The grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease is governed by the Mines and Minerals (Regulation & Development) Act, 1957 and the rules made thereunder. The application for grant of Prospecting Licence/Mining Lease is to be made to the State Government only. As diamond is included in the 1st schedule of Mines and Minerals (Regulations & Development) Act, 1957, prior approval of Central Government is required before grant of Prospecting Licence/ Mining Leases.

Contribution of Private Sector Towards Employment Generation

980. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of growth of unemployment and placement during the Eighth Five Year Plan period; and

(b) the contribution of big and medium scale private sector with regard to employment generation during the entire Seventh and Eighth plan period?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Estimates of employment and unemployment are obtained from the Labour Force Surveys conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) once in a period of five years. The last such survey was carried out in 1993-94. As per the key results published by NSSO, the number of persons employed and unemployed according to usual status were as follows:—

Employed per 1000 persons

		1993-94	1987-88
Rural	Male	553	539
	Female	328	323
Urban	Male	520	506
	Female	154	152

Unemployed per 1000 in Labour Force

		1993-94	1987-88
Rural	Male	20	28
	Female	13	35
Urban	Male	45	61
	Female	83	85